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THE 'NATURAL LADIESMAN' & THE FLOODS OF 1916



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A CYCLONE that caused severe flooding in the South Atlantic states in July of 1916 was evidently the event that Charles Averett Rollins alludes to in describing the start of his adventurous route to college.

According to *The Floods of 1916: How the Southern Organization Met an Emergency*, published in 1917 by Southern Railway, a cyclone approached the coast of South Carolina on July 14 and caused heavy rains to hit Charleston and areas to the north, "especially in the line of counties along the right bank of the Great Pee Dee River . . . Chesterfield, Darlington, Florence, and Williamsburg." Johnsonville, Rollins' home, was in Florence County. The book reports that the rains did not abate until July 16.

The previous week, a similar storm had hit the Mississippi coast and moved inland and eastward, eventually passing through western North Carolina and on to the South Carolina coast. This storm, according to the book, had "served to saturate the soil and to keep the streams at moderately high stages and thus to prepare the way for serious floods as soon as the downpour of the second storm" began.



The combination of the two storms apparently caused untold problems for the Carolinas, including northeastern South Carolina. But they were not enough to dissuade Averett Rollins from his dogged pursuit of his college education.

After finally arriving at Furman, Rollins went on to earn his degree in mathematics, head the Adelpian Literary Society and compile, from all available information, an exemplary record. Here's how the *Bonhomie* paid tribute to Rollins in 1920, his senior year: "Bull Bat" started on his journey in the great city of

Hemmingway on November 5, 1900. He attended the graded school at Exelton, S.C., until he finished the eighth grade. Then, moving to Johnsonville, he resumed his studies in the high school of that city. Graduating from Johnsonville with honors, he entered Furman in the fall of 1916. Rollins is a natural ladiesman, and is always well posted on the art of flirting. But he has a serious turn as well. He is very fond of Math, being one of the four taking this Senior subject.

On leaving Furman he carries with him the best wishes of the entire class."

— JIM STEWART